

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 SAB-01 DLOS-03 /118 W

----- 105202

R 300905Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2873

COMIDEASTFOR

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USINT BAGHDAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, PBOR, KU, SA

SUBJECT: KUWAIT/SAUDI OFFSHORE BOUNDARY NEGOTIATIONS

REF: KUWAIT 1301; THE HAGUE 2153

1. DURING DISCUSSION OTHER MATTERS WITH AMBASSADOR AND DCM
APRIL 28, KUWAIT OIL MINISTER KAZEMI PROVIDED FOLLOWING ACCOUNT
SAG/GOK NEGOTIATIONS ON OFFSHORE BOUNDARY.

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2. KAZEMI SAID KUWAITI CROWN PRINCE DURING EARLY MARCH VISIT ITO RIYADH PROPOSED TO KING FAISAL FORMULA FOR SETTLING SAUDI/KUWAITI NEUTRAL ZONE AND OFF-SHORE BOUNDARIES. GOK HAD PROPOSED BORDER BE EXTENDED IN STRAIGHT LINE OFFSHORE FROM DEMARCATED BOUNDARY IN FORMER NEUTRAL ZONE (WHICH EFFECTIVELY DIVIDES NEUTRAL ZONE IN HALF). THIS WOULD GIVE TO KUWAIT DISPUTED ISLANDS OF QARU AND UMM AL MARADIM.

GOK WOULD THEN NEGOTIATE MEDIAN LINE WITH IRAN AND BEGIN INTESIVE EXPLORATION OF KUWAITI OFFSHORE WATERS. FOLLOWING ANY SIGNIFICANT DISCOVERIES, KUWAIT WOULD RELINQUISH TO SAG ITS SHARE OF THE TIP OF SAFANIYA FIELD WHICH PROJECTS INTO SOUTHERN HALF OF NEUTRAL ZONE.

3. KING FAISAL ALLEGEDLY ENDORSED PLAN, PROVIDED IT KEPT SECRET. ACCORDING KAZEMI, FAISAL'S APPROVAL CONSTITUTED MAJOR CONCESSION FROM FORMER SAUDI INSISTENCE THAT NEW SOUTHERN KUWAITI BORDER MERELY BE CONCENTRIC TO PRESENT FRONTIER BUT RUNNING JUST NORTH OF ISLANDS OF UMM AL-MARADIM AND QARU. (SUCH CIRCULAR LINE WOULD OF COURSE GIVE KUWAIT, IN ADDITION TO LOSS OF ISLANDS, MUCH LESS OFFSHORE ACREAGE THAN ROUGHTLY EAST-WEST STRAIGHT LINE KUWAITIS WANT.)

4. KAZEMI SAID HE SUBSEQUENTLY WAS ASKED TO GO TO RIYADH TO CONFIRM UNDERSTANDING WITH FAISAL. AS DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL, IT WAS AT BEGINNING OF THIS MEETING THAT FAISAL WAS ASSASSINATED IN PRESENCE KAZEMI. DESPITE PRESS RUMORS TO CONTRARY, NO FURTHER SUBSTANTIVE TALKS HAVE BEEN HELD BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS. HOWEVER, KAZEMI CONFIRMED THAT DURING PLANNED VISIT SAUDI OIL MINISTER YAMANI TO KUWAIT MAY 3 MATTER AGAIN SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION. GOK OPTIMISTIC THAT SAG WILLCONTINUE TO HONOR COMMITMENT KAZEMI SAYS WAS MADE BY FAISAL.

4. IF AGREEMENT WITH SAG REACHED, KAZEMI SAID GOK--EITHER THROUGH SHELL OR ON OWN ACCOUNT--INTENDED TO UNDERTAKE LARGE SCALE EXPLORATION FOR OIL AND GAS IN OFFSHORE AREA. THIS COULD GO FORWARD WITH OR WITHOUT AGREEMENT OF IRAQIS. KAZEMI WAS NOT PREPARED COMMENT CONCERNING EARLY RESOLUTION IRAQI/KUWAITI ON AND OFFSHORE BOUNDARY PROBLEMS.
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